

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims of the present application are set forth below, marked with changes proposed herein.

Cancel claims 6 – 8 without prejudice.

Add new claims 9 – 13 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A supply module for feeding electrical components to an automatic component-mounting machine having a component- mounting head, comprising: a component displacement apparatus operable to displace ~~in which~~ the electrical components ~~are displaced~~ in an advancing direction along an advancing plane to a removal position, said removal position being configured to permit ~~from which~~ the components to be ~~are~~ removed by the component-mounting head of the automatic component-mounting machine, said component displacement apparatus defining a removal opening at said a removal position, ~~side through which~~ the component-mounting head removing ~~removes~~ the electrical components through said removal opening;

an adjustable locking element that at least partially blocks the ~~an~~ electrical component at the removal opening when said adjustable locking element is in a blocking position and that releases the electrical component at the removal opening when said adjustable locking element is in a removal position, said adjustable locking element including a strip extending in the advancing direction, said strip having a width of less than a lateral distance between the electrical component at the removal opening and an adjacent exterior side of the component displacement apparatus, said adjacent exterior side extending in the advancing direction and being perpendicular to the advancing plane, said adjustable locking element being electrically actuated to selectively move ~~movable~~ transversally with respect to the advancing direction into an edge region between the electrical component at the removal position and the exterior side.

2. (Currently Amended) The A supply module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said adjustable locking element is a narrow finger projecting in the advancing direction, said narrow finger having a free end forming ~~which forms~~ the strip and projecting ~~projects~~ into the removal position over the electrical component in the blocking position, and said free end being movable into the edge region by lateral deflection.

3. (Currently Amended) The A supply module as claimed in claim 2, wherein said narrow finger is a single freely projecting bending spring, said freely projecting spring having a non-free end and being anchored by said ~~which is anchored by its~~ non-free end on a fixed bearing of the component displacement apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) The A supply module as claimed in claim 3, wherein said freely projecting bending spring is an electrically actuatable bending transducer.

5. (Currently Amended) The A supply module as claimed in claim 4, wherein said electrically actuatable bending transducer is of piezoceramic material.

Claims 6 – 8 (Cancelled)

9.(New) A supply module for supplying components to a mounting head, comprising:
a component displacement apparatus operable to move components in a conveying direction and having component holding locations distributed along its length, said component displacement apparatus holding the components in said component holding locations during movement of said components, said component displacement apparatus defining a removal opening at a removal position, the mounting head accessing the components for removal from the supply module through the removal opening; and
a single component restraining element mounted on said component displacement apparatus and having a free end extending over said removal opening when in a restraining position, said component restraining element substantially preventing the component

in said removal position from being dislodged from the component holding location when said component restraining element is in the restraining position, said component restraining element being selectively movable by electric actuation to a release position that permits the component in said removal position to be removed from its component holding location by the mounting head.

10. (New) The supply module as claimed in claim 9, wherein said component restraining element is an elongated strip having a fixed end mounted to said component displacement apparatus and a free end that flexes to move to said release position.

11. (New) The supply module as claimed in claim 10, wherein said component restraining element is a piezoceramic strip, and further comprising:
a voltage supply selectively connectable to said piezoceramic strip to cause said strip to flex between said restraining position and said removal position.

12. (New) The supply module as claimed in claim 9, wherein said component restraining element is a single elongated element selectively securing the component in the component holding location and alternatively selectively releasing the component from the component holding location, said single elongated element moving between positions securing the component and releasing the component free of mechanical contact.

13. (New) The supply module as claimed in claim 1, wherein said adjustable locking element is a single element selectively securing the component in the component holding location and alternately selectively releasing the component from the component holding location.